# TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
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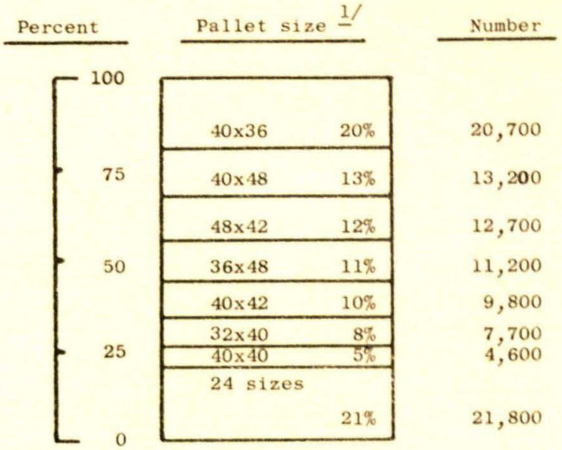
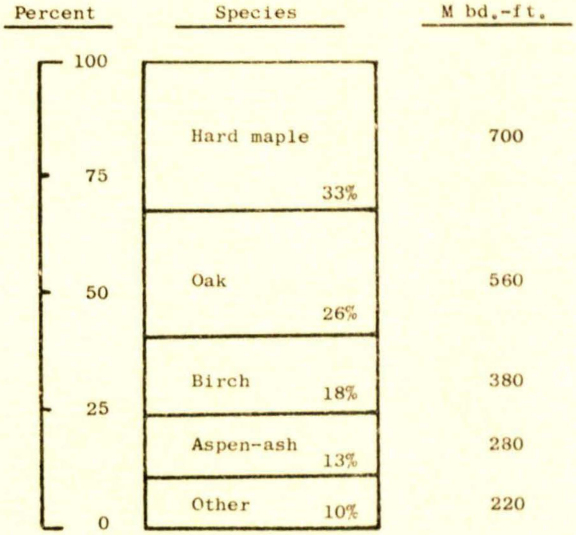
## Wood Pallet Imports in Minneapolis-St. Paul Area, 1954

Pallets are low, sturdy platforms made in a wide variety of sizes and forms, and designed to facilitate the movement and storage of goods with mechanical lift equipment. Most pallets are constructed from wood. Those shipped to Twin City industries during 1954 were manufactured from the lower grades of both regional and southern hardwood species.

Over 101,000 pallets in 31 different sizes were received by Twin City firms utilizing the pallet-fork truck method of materials handling. They were produced in an almost endless variety of forms to adapt them to individual industry requirements, but in overall size they were much less variable. Seventy-nine percent was found in only 7 of the 31 different size-groups; the remaining 24 groups accounted for 21 percent of the pallets.




Hard maple, oak, and birch were the most favored species in pallet construction, comprising 76 percent of all lumber so used during 1954. Another 9 species were utilized in varying amounts ranging from 7 percent each for aspen and ash to less than 1 percent for cottonwood, balsam poplar, yellow poplar, and soft maple. Because of the use to which pallets are put, specifications usually designate construction from dense hardwoods. Of the total lumber used, 92 percent was rated as high or medium density; only 8 percent was of low density. 2/




During 1954, 19 firms supplied pallets to the Twin City market. Sixteen of these were regional and three were southern. Regional manufacturers supplied 89 percent of the total, 53 percent coming from Wisconsin, 27 percent from Minnesota, and 9 percent from Michigan. Southern firms in Arkansas and Alabama accounted for the remaining 11 percent.

1/ Overall size is given in inches with stringer length first.
2/ Rated according to the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory "Groupings of Wood According to Nail-Holding Qualities and Other Properties of Importance in Container Construction," as revised May 24, 1954.

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J. R. WARNER, Forester



MAINTAINED AT ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA